> to be there. I presume my dream is a warning not to read any more trash like the Crippen murder trial.

She goes on to congratulate him on his being appointed Medical Superintendent of the Orillia Asylum.[cxli] She thanks him for apparently relieving some of the tensions between her mother and herself. As for Dr. Clarke, et al., she asks Dr. Herriman to tell them she that she has not forgotten them, but she does not "intend to come near them at all, for fear the old den should open its mouth to take me in."

She was admitted for the seventh time on May 26, 1911. Now the sexual nature of her disturbance is more apparent than ever. The "Certificate" signed by Doctor Becker describes her dishevelled hair, her "lewd actions," her pulling her bed apart, her swearing to have been made pregnant by men to whom she was married, etc.

In a letter of February 17, 1911 to Dr. Clarke, Miss Dickens offers her "life story" as a "help to you in your medical work." At the same time she asks him to promise to not let "my own people ever know of my secret." Her letter to Dr. Clarke is, at least for Miss Dickens, an attempt to renew an understanding which she believes she had with Drs. Herriman and McEwan, to keep her "secret" from her family. She assumes that, as another doctor, Clarke has already been made a party to the secret; she wishes to make him a party to her "understanding" as well.

After her father's crops and livestock were destroyed by a flood in 1879, and she was about 3 years old, she went to live with an aunt. She stayed with her for 7 years. She started school when she was about 4 years old, partly so that she would have some "playfellows." She was lonely, because her aunt's only other child was an adopted girl 11 years older than herself. She had her "own little bedroom" and she remembers having there, about this time, "a very nasty dream":

> The dream was, I thought a cat got between my legs, and was scratching me. I woke up in an awful perspiration, and that was the beginning of the habit of self-abuse, which went on until I reached the Asylum.